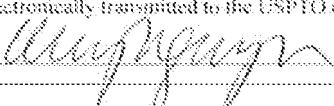


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the USPTO on the date shown below.

Date: September 14, 2006 Signature:  (Quyen Nguyen)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/612,109

Confirmation No.: 3376

Filing Date: July 1, 2003

Inventor(s): Richard C. EWERS

Title: DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR GASTRIC REDUCTION

Examiner: M. Hand

Group Art Unit: 3761

**RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patent  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated March 15, 2006 for which a response was due on June 15, 2006. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a 3-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to September 15, 2006. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.